WinAPRS v2.8.5+ Loading Instructions

These instructions do not cover the installation of Precision Maps Version 5.0 since this CD is no longer available. Their later Versions 6, 7 & 8 will work with Ui-View but not with WinAPRS! The other problem is that since Version 2.7.x will only give you a 2/3-size screen when using Precision Maps. It does give you a full screen when used with Tiger Maps also available on the Set-Up CD or you can download them per the instructions below. I still recommend WinAPRS Version 2.5.1 with the Precision Maps Version 3.0 or 3.5 if you have an older laptop that is slow and does not have lots of RAM memory.

If you have a newer computer with lots of RAM and memory, WinAPRS Version 2.8.5 works just fine. That is what I am using on my newer home laptop and it works just fine for me. The loading instructions for Version 2.8.x are given below.

To load the WinAPRS Version 2.8.1, or later, perform the following:

Expand waprs284.zip (or the latest full version), this is the full version of the WinAPRS program. My preference for where I want to expand it to is: C:\Program Files\APRS
That will create a WinAPRS folder at: C:\Program Files\APRS\WinAPRS

Expand WinAPRS285.zip (or the latest update, if there is one), this updates WinAPRS to the latest version. It generally only contains the winaprs.exe file and sometimes a new WAPRSdoc.html. Replace the existing winaprs.exe file with the latest one in the root directory where you expanded the previous version. If there is a new WAPRSdoc.html file, then replace the existing file in the DOC folder with this one. You can delete any other files and folders in the DOC folder, they are just examples and are not needed for the WinAPRS program.

Copy the WA tiger maps from my APRS Start-up CD to the TIGER folder, or download the applicable Tiger maps for your area from the Internet and place into a folder with your State designated postal abbreviation. See Tiger Maps Loading Instructions below for more info.

Also copy the Boundary folder from my APRS Start-up CD to this TIGER folder if it does not yet exist.

Copy the NWShape folder from my APRS Start-up CD to the APRS root directory where the winaprs.exe file is located.

If you previously ran a registered version of WinAPRS and are configuring WinAPRS to a new computer, you might also want to move the following files from your old computer to the new one into the root directory where winaprs.exe resides (this act will eliminate the need to make all the Settings entries again):

WinAPRS.prf
WinLoc.prf

You also may want to move the following files from your existing WinAPRS root directory to save you from making these configurations again (If a file with that name already exists in the new version, you may want to overwrite it):

aprserve.txt (Lists the servers you want to be able to select in WinAPRS).
home.txt (Allows you to specify your favorite Home Screen. Now activated by pressing **Shift-H**).
memory.txt (Allows you to increase the number of stations in the Stations List before the program crashes).
restore.txt (Reconfigures your TNC to your desired settings upon shutting WinAPRS down).
Sounds (Allows you to add sounds to your program when selected in Settings, Enable Sound).
stations.txt (This file is a list of the APRS stations that your station, if it is set up as an I-Gate, hears via the Internet and will be transmitted out on RF. Do NOT broadcast out via RF all stations that you hear!)

Here are some more additional optional updates you might want to make:

Labels: If you had created any personal Labels files, you will want to move them from your previous Labels Folder to your new Labels Folder. See my Set-Up CD for such sample files that add additional labels to your screen.

Logs: If you had any previously saved logs in your Logs Folder, you may want to move them from your previous Logs Folder to your new Logs Folder.

Maps: If you had any previously saved maps in your Maps Folder, you may want to move them from your previous Maps Folder to your new Maps Folder.

Ports: If you had a previously created Ports Folder in your older version of WinAPRS, then you may want to move that Ports Folder to your newer version of WinAPRS.

A Ports Folder is only required if you run WinAPRS with an internet feed or as an I-Gate.

Toporama: If you had a previously created a Toporama Folder, you may want to move that Toporama Folder to your new version of WinAPRS. Toporama maps are Canadian Maps, which you can use, should you so desire. Caution, they take lots of memory!

altpath.txt: If you had a previously created an updated **altpath.txt** file where you specified your own preference of alternate paths that you might use at times, then move this file from your old version to your new version of WinAPRS. CAUTION: The altpath.txt file that comes with the program does not contain the latest Paradigm settings. Please adjust those paths accordingly.

Waypoint.txt: These files may be added to our LABLES folder in order to show your desired points of interest on the map. The MC Fire HallsWpts.txt file is an example of waypoints you can add to your program. This particular file shows all the Fire Halls located in Mason County, WA. You can make similar files to show whatever you want to show on you map. These example files can be dragged from your Set-Up CD into the Labels folder in the WinAPRS files and modified to suit your needs.

Hopefully, you will succeed in loading all of the above files to your computer and it will make your WinAPRS program run with Precision Maps in the background. If you run into problems read the WinAPRS Help files on Precision Mapping. It should explain the above instructions in different words.

Tiger Maps Loading Instructions

These instructions are only supplied in case you want to load Tiger maps for a state not supplied on my Set-Up CD. You may load Tiger Maps for other states using this procedure and you do not need to load the entire state but may only load the counties of interest to you.

1. Downloaded tiger maps for the states/counties that you are interested in from: http://www2.census.gov/geo/tiger/tiger2006se/WA/ you will need to download a file for each county in the state if you want the entire state's data. The above is the URL for the State of Washington. You need to download these files into your Tiger folder which is in your WinAPRS root folder. These files are updated regularly so you might want to start at:

http://www2.census.gov/geo/tiger/ and then select the latest Tiger Maps file for your area.

2. Run WinZip on each file to expand each compressed file into this same Tiger folder.

3. Now run WinAPRS Version 2.8.0 or later that uses Tiger maps. The program automatically recognizes that new tiger maps exist and will now convert those expanded files to .bin binary files as you zoom into an area. To create all the binary files without having to zoom in, go to List, Tiger Map Info, then click on the left most button which will Generate Tiger Boundary Files from the ASCII Files.

4. You can now go back into that Tiger folder and delete all files except for the .bin files in each of the State file folders, like the WA folder, OR folder, etc. The program only needs those .bin files in order to generate the Tiger Maps.

WinAPRS Registration Information:

The registration for WinAPRS costs $50. It is recommended that everyone who uses an APRS program supports the author of that program by paying the nominal registration fee if one is required. WinAPRS will run exactly the same whether you pay the registration fee or not. The only difference is that if you do not run a registered version, you need to go through each of the set-up screens each time you start the program. Once you enter your registration number, the program will remember all your settings and you can start the program by double clicking on an ICON on your desktop. That alone is worth the $50 to me.

Also be advised that the WinAPRS Registration Number was changed with the release of WinAPRS Version 2.8.0. So if you are a previously registered user of WinAPRS, you need to send Mark Sproul and email [kb2ici@amsat.org] and request your new registration code. There is no additional charge to previously registered users. For those of you new to APRS and are registering the program for the first time, you should ask for both registration codes so that you can run both the old and new version should you desire to run Version 2.5.1 since you are running it on an older computer. I do not recommend running a version older than 2.5.1. The newer versions are much more memory intensive, require a lot more Hard Disk space and should not be run on pre-XP Operating Systems.

Let me know if you run into problems or suggestions in improving these instructions.

Enjoy playing APRS,

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